



St. John the Baptist

Roman Catholic

Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 5, 2020

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Website – SaintJohnPottsville.org.

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail – stjbparish@comcast.net

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information

John Consugar (570)-449-1675
St. John's Rectory (570)-622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC
Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS
Diocese of Allentown
1515 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
P.O. Box F
Allentown, PA 18105-1538
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204
610-871-5211 (Fax)
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

(Holy Week Services are not open to the public --- services will be streamed on Website/Facebook)

Saturday - April 4th

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (church open for private adoration)

Mass at 4:00 p.m.

No Palm will be distributed as per direction of the Bishop

Palm Sunday - April 5th

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (church open for private adoration)

No Palm will be distributed as per direction of the Bishop

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m. on St. Johns Facebook page

Monday – April 6th

Mass – 9 a.m.

Tuesday – April 7th & Wednesday, April 8th

Mass – 11:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday – April 9th

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Church will open from 6 to 10 p.m. for private adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

Use upper side door

Good Friday - April 10th

Church will be open for private adoration from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Liturgy - 3:00 p.m. online on St. Johns Facebook Page

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m. online at St. Johns Facebook Page

Holy Saturday – April 11th

Blessing of Food baskets online at 12:00 noon

Easter Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m. online vigil on St. Johns Facebook Page

Easter Sunday – April 12th

Mass – 9:00 a.m. online on St. Johns Facebook Page

Confessions will be heard as follows:

Saturday April 4 - 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday, April 5th --- 9:30 to 10:30

Monday, April 6th --- 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7th --- 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Please use the upper side door of the church where the ramp is located.

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Rosary prayed on Facebook at 7 p.m. from April 4th to April 8th

Divine Mercy prayed on Facebook at 3 p.m. from April 4th to April 9th

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EASTER FLOWERS

Because we are not publicly celebrating Holy Week and Easter this year, we are drastically reducing the Easter flower order. However, we will provide special flower arrangements for the sanctuary during the Easter Season which will be part of the Easter Flower Memorials. You may still memorialize the Easter flower arrangements during the Easter season by using the Easter Flower Envelope that was in your envelope packet. The memorial envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the rectory anytime during the month of April.

RICE BOWL BOXES

The Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the boxes by the upper side door of church during private adoration times.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you may feel, as we all do, that we live in changing times. I'm sure none of us would have ever thought that we would experience a Holy Week where we could only participate by social media and livestreaming. The fact that we cannot attend any of the Holy Week or Easter liturgies is something that probably has never happened in the history of the church.

Let us all continue to pray that this Coronavirus Pandemic will end soon. And let us also continue to pray for all those who are affected directly by the Coronavirus or are on the front lines trying to fight this dreadful virus ... the medical staffs, first responders, and all those trying to find a cure for this disease.

As we move into the holiest week of the church year, let us also remember the sufferings of Christ two thousand years ago and what he endured especially in the last three days of his life. What we suffer today only pales to the profound act of love that he gave his life for us so that we might live.

Although we cannot be together physically this Holy Week, we invite you to join us on our Website/Facebook livestream for the Holy Week liturgies that will be celebrated. The Holy Week Schedule is included in this bulletin and are also posted on our website and Facebook pages. Even though you will not be able to physically receive our Lord in the Eucharist, I would ask you to make a spiritual communion by praying the prayer contained in this bulletin.

Knowing that we probably will not be together until sometime in May (since the President has extended the social distancing until the end of April), please continue to know that we will livestream Mass each day including Easter Masses, the recitation of the Rosary each evening, and Divine Mercy devotions throughout this time.

On behalf of Deacon Visot, Deacon Lonergan, our Seminarian Bobby Rienzo, and our Parish Staff, I wish all of you a very Blessed and Hopefully Happy Easter. Know that you continue to be in my prayers and please keep me in yours.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

(Services are not open to the public)

Monday – April 6 – 9:00 a.m.

MATTHEW HALSEY (Joseph, Sonya & Joe Halsey)

Tuesday, April 7 – 11:00 a.m.

ANN M. KOCH (Jimmy Reddington)

Wednesday, April 8 – 11:00 a.m.

CHARLLIE & CATHERINE SCHAEFFER
(Maria Schaeffer)

Holy Thursday – April 9th

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Church will open from 6 to 10 p.m. for private adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday - April 10th

Liturgy - 3:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday – April 11th

Mass -- 5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 12th

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

(All Services are online only – Website/Facebook)

Confessions will be heard as follows:

Palm Sunday, April 5th --- 9:30 to 10:30

Monday, April 6th --- 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7th --- 6 to 6:30 p.m.

NO CANDLE INTENTIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

**... has been cancelled until
further notice ...**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

As Holy Week begins, we are invited as the disciples were to watch and pray.
How will you watch? Pray?

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **May & June** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. **Please call or email the Rectory by Friday, April 6th** to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. Thank you.

REMEMBERING VOCATIONS IN YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Palm Sunday. "Fasting and almsgiving, which, together with prayer, the Church proposes in a special way during the Lenten Season, are suitable means for us to become conformed to this "gaze". The examples of the saints and the long history of the Church's missionary activity provide invaluable indications of the most effective ways to support development." Pray for vocations and support ministries to those who are in need.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

EASTER FLOWERS

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RICE BOWL BOXES

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BLESSED PALM

Palms will be blessed at Mass on Palm Sunday. Palms will be available outside at the upper side door ramp from **5:15 to 6:30 p.m.** and also available during private adoration in church from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** on Palm Sunday.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

In light of the restricted celebration of Holy Week, Pope Francis transferred the annual collection for the Holy Land to another date. Normally the collection is taken up on Good Friday but this year it will be transferred to **Sunday, September 13, 2020.** This Sunday is the closest to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION AND PROTECTION

Dear Creator of the World,

We come before you asking your mercy on us to halt the spread of the Coronavirus.

We pray for those already infected with Coronavirus that they may receive prompt, effective and compassionate medical care that will restore them to health.

We pray your protection and grace for all medical professionals who are courageously treating those infected with Coronavirus. May they be shielded, strengthened and guided as they administer healing treatments and care.

We pray your protection over those most vulnerable to disease, for our babies, our children, our elders, our poor, disabled and those weakened by other health conditions.

We pray for those under quarantine that they might be comforted by your presence and protected from disease, anxiety and fear.

We pray for our public healthcare leaders and government agencies that they might be informed and well prepared as they deal with the Coronavirus. Grant them the resources and manpower they need to use their wisdom in the best interest of public health.

We pray for the researchers who are tracking the course of the Coronavirus. May they uncover patterns that will help us understand how to stay healthy.

We pray for those searching for treatments, cures and vaccines. May you guide them, reveal new ideas and accelerate their discoveries to fight this disease.

We pray for the communities, areas and countries hardest hit by Coronavirus. Restore their sense of wellbeing and community. Sustain them, comfort them and give them hope.

We pray for all whose lives are disrupted by the Coronavirus. We pray for families who have been separated and for those whose livelihoods have been jeopardized.

We look to you, Oh God, praying that the spread of the Coronavirus will be halted and that many lives might be spared.

We pray that through this crisis you may draw us closer to you, grow our compassion and increase our knowledge.

Thank you that you are the Great Physician who not only heals us but who is a very present help in our time of need as the Bible tells us that you "Took up all our infirmities and carried our diseases." (Matthew 8 :17 NIV)

Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.

FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

SPONSORS

Beehive	Charles & Pattie Miller
CACL Financial	Nativity BVM High School
Daubert Family	Nativity Volleyball
DiCello Chiropractic	Bob & Mary Porter
Fellows & Smink Dental	Noble & Jule Quandel
Brian & Sue Eckley	Carole Quirin
Friends of St. John's	Rosenberger Plumbing&Heat.
Guzick Family	Schlitzer,Allen,Pugh Funeral
Wm.Hauptly Electrical	St.Clair Auto Supply
Headquarters Styling Salon	St. John's Family Guild
Heenan Family	Luis R. & Virginia C. Visot
Kochol Family	Ralph & Joanne Wood
Lieberman, Tamulonis, Hobbs	Ellen & Jay Zane

Winners

March 25:	Terri Nunemacher
March 26:	Dan Wachter
March 27:	Susan Hahner
March 28:	Babe Murphy
March 29:	Visot
March 30:	Audrey Brahler
March 31:	Linda Zwiebel

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

HAUPTLY ELECTRIC - PLUMBING - CARPENTRY

New Services: Re-wire / Appliance Install / Bathrooms
/Furnaces / General Home Repair

Call Bill Hauptly (570) 691-8700

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

* It's inexpensive Advertising

- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Neighborhood
- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 28/29: \$ 3,617.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

- **Please note ... all Christmas Wreaths & Decorations must be removed as soon as possible**
- All decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day and Christmas.
- All decorations except those flowers or plants planted in the ground, must be removed by **July 1st**
- Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden.
- All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in receptacles at Cemetery.

BULLETIN BOOSTERS

March 2020

IMO Carl Bartholomew	M/M James Loeper
IMO Harold Bartholomew	IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Robert Berger	IMO Felix & Agnes Narog
IMO Edward Christ	Dorothy Parsick
Mildred A. Fredericks	IMO Jeanne Rehnert
Fr. Don Henry	IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert
IMO M/M Herbert Henry	IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
IMO Joanne Hepler	IMO Marcie Schnerring
IMO Clare Houser	IMO Stephen Sitkus
IMO Francis King	IMO Margaret Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's CYO Program	

What is a Bulletin Booster?? Some of our newer parishioners have asked what it means to be a Bulletin Booster. We have a wonderful bulletin – it is timely and keeps us informed of what is going on within our parish family and its surroundings. Paper and supplies are needed on a weekly basis to continue this family tradition. So, if you'd like to donate toward the supplies. **\$1.00 and up ... you too can be a ... Bulletin Booster**

